



Paul Revere House

Built around 1680, the Revere House is the oldest building in downtown Boston and was home to silversmith and patriot Paul Revere when he made his famous ride in 1775. The house was built on the site of the former parsonage. Increase Mather and his family (including his son Cotton Mather) occupied the parsonage until it was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1676. Four years later a larger house was erected. Revere purchased the house in 1770 and lived there with his wife, five children and his mother. After the Revolution he opened a foundry in 1788 and produced bolts, spikes, nails and cannons. In 1801, Revere opened the first copper rolling mill in North America where he produced copper sheeting for the hull of the USS Constitution and for the dome of the new State House.

Revere sold the house in 1800. It then became a tenement and over the years the first floor housed a variety of shops. In 1902, Paul Revere's great-grandson, John P. Reynolds, purchased it and the Paul Revere Memorial Association was formed to preserve and renovate the house. Ninety percent of the structure, two doors, three window frames and portions of the flooring, foundation, inner wall material and raftering are original. Two chambers on the second floor contain period furnishings belonging to the Revere family.



Photograph by Steve Dunwell

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